

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/103 W

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R 251610Z MAY 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 111

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 3854

PASS STR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, CA

SUBJ: MTN: AMBASSADOR DENT'S DISCUSSION WITH CANADIANS

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DENT, CANADIAN DEL (GREY) EMPHASIZED US-CANADIAN COMMON INTERESTS IN MTN AND URGED FULLEST BILATERAL CONSULTATION. DENT AGREED AND CITED HIS FORTHCOMING OTTAWA VISIT. GREY INDICATED SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH U.S. AND CANADIAN POSITIONS MIGHT CONFLICT, NOTABLY TARIFF FLOOR AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.

2. ON TARIFF FLOOR GREY STONGLY CRITICIZED U.S. TABLING OF FORMULAS IN RECENT TARIFF GROUP MEETING STATING THAT TWO OF THREE PROVIDED FOR FLOOR OF FIVE PERCENT. GREY STATED SERIOUS IMPACT ON CANADIAN TRADE IF TARIFF FORMULA DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ELIMINATION OF LOW RATES AND WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CANADA TO OBTAIN RECIPROCITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF

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CANADIAN EXPORTS DUTIABLE AT FIVE PERCENT AND BELOW. TARIFF

FLOOR WOULD ALSO HAMPER SECTORAL APPROACH FOR METALS OF KEEN INTEREST TO CANADIANS. GREY ALSO URGED MORE PRIOR CONSULTATION ON FORMULA QUESTION POINTING OUT CANADIANS HAD LITTLE NOTICE OF U.S. INTENTIONS IN PREVIOUS TARIFF MEETING.

3. DENT REPLIED THAT U.S. FORMULAS SUBMITTED FOR STUDY PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR A TARIFF FLOOR. HE INDICATED U.S. WOULD RESTUDY FORMULAS IN LIGHT CANADIAN CONCERN OVER FLOOR PROPOSAL.

4. ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES GREY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE CANADA ATTACHED TO MAKING PROGRESS. HE THOUGHT CANADA AND U.S. SHOULD AVOID FIGHTING OPENLY ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH COULD ONLY PLEASE EC AND JAPAN. GREY SUGGESTED EXTENSIVE BILATERAL TALKS TO MINIMIZE DISAGREEMENTS IN OPEN MEETINGS. DENT COMMENTED THAT COUNTERVAIL ISSUE INTIMATELY LINKED TO SUBSIDIES AND PROMISED CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH CANADIANS.

5. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION GREY STRESSED CANADIAN COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFUL MTN AND NEED FOR TANGIBLE PROGRESS DESPITE CURRENT CANADIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WOLFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TARIFFS, COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MTNGE03854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0217
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaaqdd.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: AMBASSADOR DENT'S DISCUSSION WITH CANADIANS
TAGS: ETRD, CA, US, GATT, (DENT, FREDERICK B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006